

Media Release

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National Weather Service
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2012 – Warmest Start for Any Year on Record

For the first 137 days of 2012 (January 1 through May 16), several locations in south central Nebraska and north central Kansas have experienced the warmest start for any year on record. The following table depicts the average temperature through May 16:

	Grand Island	Hastings	Kearney	Hebron	Smith Center	Beloit	Greeley	York	Plainville
2012 Average Temp. (F)	45.9°	45.4°	43.8°	45.9°	47.0°	48.1°	42.0°	44.2°	46.7°
“Current” Record Average Temp.	44.0° in 1992	44.4° in 1934	43.8° in 1986	44.2° in 1921	47.3° in 1986	47.6° in 1921	40.1° in 1977	45.2° in 1946	47.5° in 1946
2012 Rank vs. “All-Time Rank”	1 st	1 st	Tied 1 st	1 st	3 ^d	1 st	1 st	3 ^d	2 nd
Period of Record	116 years	105 years	111 years	117 years	100 years*	117 years*	59 years*	110 years	98 years

* indicates some data is missing or record not fully complete

Of course, there are still many months to come in 2012, but clearly this has been the warmest or one of the warmest years on record locally, thanks at least in part to the warmest March on record ([State of the Climate – March 2012](#)).

In addition, today the Climate Prediction Center released the monthly seasonal outlooks for next 12 months. It appears the warm trend is expected to continue, especially through the first half of the summer. For precipitation, there are equal chances for above, below and near normal precipitation for the summer, due primarily to the lack of any strong indicators for above or below normal outcomes. For a look at all the just released outlooks, go to <http://goo.gl/oaxQ8> (link shortened address).

“Earliest” Spring Freeze Records

Along with the warm start, came a record breaking “last spring freeze” date for some places in south central Nebraska. Both Hastings and Hebron have not had a freeze (32° or less) since early March. For Hastings, it was March 9 (22°) and for Hebron it was March 10 (32°). In both cases, this was about 3 weeks earlier than the previous “earliest last spring freeze”, and about 45 days before the annual average last freeze (around April 25 for Hebron and Hastings). For Hastings, the “earliest last freeze” was March 31, 1991 and for Hebron it was April 1, 1924. While not expected, it is not unheard of to reach the freezing mark in late May. In fact, most locations had their latest spring freeze on record on May 29, 1947. For more local frost/freeze information, see story at the top of our homepage called [Frost/Freeze Information for Spring 2012](#).

For more weather information, including forecasts, warnings and advisories, check out our website at: www.weather.gov/hastings. You can also contact Mike Moritz for additional information.

Note: All of this record information is considered “unofficial” until certification of the data is done by the National Climatic Data Center.

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